

REMARKS

In response to the Non-final Office Action dated July 17, 2007, Applicant submits the following Amendment.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has found claims 1, 3-8, 10-16 to be allowable, and claim 18 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the only rejected claim is claim 17. As presented below, Applicant has rewritten claim 18 in independent form and canceled claim 17. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not provide an initialed copy of the PTO Form SB/08 that was submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on July 3, 2007, perhaps because this IDS was filed as the office action was being prepared by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide a copy of this form with the references initialed.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claim 17 again is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura, *et al.* in view of Hiroshima, *et al.* (USP 5,801,781).

As presented above, Applicant has cancelled claim 17 and rewritten claim 18, which depended from claim 17, in independent form. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that any of the outstanding issues could be resolved by a telephone conference, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully Submitted,

/John J. Penny, Jr./

Date: October 17, 2007

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